

[22 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Antyodaya Scheme

154. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI RANJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what criteria has been fixed for identification of beneficiaries of "Antyodaya Scheme" launched on the last birthday of the Prime Minister *i.e.* 25th December, 2000;

(b) whether there is any proposal for making BPL families on beneficiaries of this Scheme;

(c) whether the State Governments have been conveyed the criteria to be adopted for identification of the poorest of the poor people; and

(d) by when the scheme is likely to be made fully operational and the States already taking advantage of the Scheme;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Antyodaya Anna Yojana launched by the Prime Minister on 25.12.2000 contemplates identification of one crore poorest of the poor families and providing them with 25 kg. of foodgrains per family per month at highly subsidised rates of Rs. 2 per kg. of wheat and Rs. 3 per kg. of rice. One crore Antyodaya families constitute about 15.33% of the BPL families in each State. The Government of India has requested the State Governments/UTs to identify the Antyodaya families from amongst the number of BPL families within the State/UT. They have been requested to finalise the list of Antyodaya families in a meeting of the Gram Sabha for a Panchayat in the rural areas. The list of Antyodaya families finalised in a meeting of the Gram Sabha for a Panchayat area shall be consolidated at the block and district

level under the supervision of the office of the District Collectors. In the urban areas the task will be undertaken by involving the urban local bodies.

(c) Detailed guidelines for implementation of Antyodaya Anna Yojana have been issued all the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(d) States/UTs have been requested by Government of India on 25.12.2000 to complete task of identification and issue of ration cards to Antyodaya families within a period of 2 months. Allocation has not been made to any State/UT at present as the task of identification is in progress in most of the States.

Consumer Protection Act

155. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the amendments to the existing Consumer Protection Act to strengthen the mechanism of consumer dispute redressal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of cases are pending in various consumer fora;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed by Government to minimize delay in disposing of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION. (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The proposals to amend the consumer Protection Act, 1986 are being finalized.

(c) and (d) As per the information made available, as on date